MINNESOTA.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

BROADWAY HOUSE, NEW-YORK,

ON

27th MARCH, 1857,

IGNATIUS DONNELLY, Esq.

NEW-YORK:

FOLGER & TURNER, PRINTERS,
No. 118 JOHN STREET.

1857.

St. Nicholas Hotel,
New-York, March 30th, 1857.

GNATIUS DONNELLY, Esq.,
Philadelphia.

Dear Sir;

At the suggestion of many friends of Minnesota in New-York City, we would respectfully request of you for publication, a copy of your admirable address, delivered on the evening of the 27th inst., in relation to the advantages of that Territory.

In asking this favor we consider ourselves justified, not only by the intrinsic merits of the production, but by the benefit which must result from its circulation among those interested in Western immigration.

We are, very truly yours,

John Nininger,
Geo. H. Burns,
C. Adams,
George Ogilvie Robertson, &c. &c.

No. 222 Spruce Street, Philadelphia.

Gentlemen;

Your polite note requesting for publication a copy of my Address delivered in New-York City on the 27th inst., on the subject of Minnesota, has been received. Permit me to thank you for the favorable opinions you seem to entertain of it.

While I comply with your request I would state, that the short space my engagements allowed for its production leave it in many respects rude and imperfect. Neither have I the time now to elaborate it. If, however, it should, as you seem to think, be of any benefit, however slight, to the interests of that Territory in which I purpose to make my home, I shall be satisfied to remain individually open to criticism.

Believe me very respectfully, your friend,

IGNATIUS DONNELLY.

31*st March*, 1857.

To Messrs. Jno. Nininger,
Geo. H. Burns, C. Adams, and others.

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ADDRESS.

NTLEMEN :—

I have been requested by some of those instrumental in getting up this eting to address you. I have complied, because I believed that the timents of even the humblest on a topic of common interest are some- ies important. I shall give you this evening my individual opinions l experience. I ask for them no greater weight. There is nothing raordinary in the step you propose to take. It is the common move- nt of the world. The same inscrutable Providence which stayed not course of the frail Mayflower, accelerates at this day the flood and rent of which you are a part. There is scarcely an active or enter- sing mind in this country but has at this time a look westward. The st has been for years, still is, and for years will continue to be the lized El Dorado of the world.

And is it not natural? Our crowded eastern cities and counties are the open, liberal, half-peopled west, what the old hot-houses, the breed- beds of suffocated Europe are to the new world. Those who seek means of merest life emigrate here; those who seek the means of alth and fortune emigrate from here westward. In the east we live id immense competition, climbing to independence only over the nlders of those less fortunate around us. In the west we have but to lk into open opportunities that strew our path in every direction, in broad bright prairie, in the teeming city, in the thrifty workshop, in professional desk, in honorable effort and industry of every kind and aracter. Here are men calling for room: there room calling for men. Why is this state of things, and why does not all the world seek out se advantages and by too much crowding obliterate them? For two sons. First, when we consider how we are constituted, what creatures habit and routine we are, how strongly our affections, our fears and all r old usages bind us to the spot on which we were born; how, Lap- nder-like we consider our own home, dreary and miserable though it ay be the fairest spot on earth, when we consider, I say, these things e only wonder that remains is that men are ever disposed to uproot

themselves from all with which time has made them familiar. I
we say therefore that the existence of such an universal, wide-swee
rolling western emigration as we every day witness is but another
of that controlling destiny which sent the civilization of Egypt into Gr
the learning of Rome into England, and drove the hordes of Scandi
in one untiring march through Russia, Germany, England, Massachu
Virginia and even unto the extremes of Oregon and California.
Lord hath resolved upon the peopling of his empty empires with the
blood of the world and the nations are marching before him. He
whipped them with the scourge of religious persecution; he has stung
with the blight of crowded poverty; until the rocks of Plymouth
shores of Maryland and the rivers of Virginia are alive with emigr
He has spread before them the fields of Ohio, the woods of Kentu
the great agricultural savannahs of Illinois, tempting them westwar
inducements which grew greater as they advanced—each new realm, l
brighter and better than the last. He has laid bare the tempting t
ures of California, ready for the clutching hand of the poorest, until a
of all nations gathered into its myriad valleys. And at length he
turned even the contested question of human slavery to his purpose
we see the two great parties of this country each advancing the popul
of the west by its eagerness to spread the tenets of its own peculiar

An additional reason why the advantages of the west are not equa
with the east by the flood of emigration, is that the term "west" i
can be localized,—it recedes like the Buffalo, as we advance. No sc
is one section of country populated than a new one starts into
offering the same or greater opportunities. The son finds equal ch
with the father, five hundred miles further west; and the grand-son
seek his fortune in plains now represented on no map, and in cities
very names of which are yet undreamed of. So we go. The peo
of a great continent is progressing—a theatre of exertion and enter
perhaps never again to be repeated in the world's history is befor
Rolling on, rolling on, and we are carried with the current. How
millions of acres are yet to be pre-empted; how many millions of
houses are yet to send up their smoke in the morning sun? There
be St. Louises to build on the Red River; Chicagos to arise o
Yellow Stone and Cincinatties to centralize the trade of the Utah Va
There is no opportunity that has passed that a greater one does not awa

What then do you propose to do? To venture out upon an iso
adventure? By no means. You are a corps of volunteers to that
army with which the whole country is more or less allied. To
great army whose broad march across the land has left behind it,
famine and slaughter, but peace and plenty, the ploughed field,
crowded barn, the laughing fire-side, the school-house and the temp
the Most High. You will seek new homes not by strange and dange
paths, but along crowded thoroughfares, in the hurrying Rail-road
in sumptuous Steamboats, in short with all the appliances of civi
comfort.

Have you made up your mind to try the great west? To seek therein w home and new opportunities? If so the next question occurs, to t portion shall you go. Here is matter for serious reflection. If you l publications on the subject you will find every locality has its inter- d advocates. I am myself an interested advocate for Minnesota. If look at particular localities you will find that every Territory or e has its choice spots which it will offer as sample cards to the public. not tell you what I think now of Minnesota, for present belief might aken at a discount, but I will relate to you my experience and allow to judge for yourselves.

ust about one year ago I was in the condition many of you are now in. re was a conviction in my heart and head that the west was the proper e in which to seek a home. I had thought the matter over and over and y time I turned it in my mind the more positive my conviction became. d read all the books I could get and my inclinations had settled upon tern Iowa. Last Spring in the month of April I left Philadelphia.

s I went west I was pleased and yet disappointed. The scraggy woods hio, the wild brakes and swamps of Indiana, the great monotonous dead- l-prairies of Illinois all disappointed me. There was here evidently n to make money, to grow rich, but where could there be comfort or piness in such a life. Every natural instinct of the mind might be thered for the attaining of one end, but would that end when attained ify it all. I crossed the Missisippi at Davenport and took the new rail- l to Iowa City. The land improved, the prairies grew rolling and ersified;—but I was at sea—the wide, deserted, lonely prairie was und me on every side; I felt like repeating Miss Barrett's words:

> "How doth the wide and melancholy earth.
> Gather her hills around us, grey and ghast,
> And stare with blank significance of loss,
> Right in our faces."

tree-less wilderness grew worse after leaving Iowa City on my way tward. A clump of trees around a little stream became a luxury to eyes, and even a huge stone, a boulder, was something to rest the t on as long as it remained visible. I said to myself this may do for winds to gambol on—and I would remark passingly, they took full antage of the opportunity—but for civilized creatures who require ses to cover them, fires to warm them and fences to enclose their sessions, this fuel-deserted region is not the place. I began to fear t all my visions of the great west were imaginations and deceptions, that I would return to the east after a long trip a wiser but not appier man. There was one place yet remained. That was Minne- a, True, but I had heard that the winters there were worse than those t overcame Sir John Franklin and Dr. Kane, and surely if Iowa, the praised garden-spot exhibited such a woful falling off what might I not pect from a closer inspection of Minnesota. However I was in for a and one might as well as the old saying is, "be hung for a sheep as a mb!" So up the great Mississippi I started.

I was rather pleased with my accommodations. A magnificent boat, a fine table, as good as in any of our eastern hotels: it was a St. Louis b "the York State." I noticed too about three hundred people aboard and boat loaded to the water's edge with freight—all bound for Minnesota ploughs, store-goods, cattle, furniture, and all the requirements of a country. I began to think there was considerable emigration to the perborean Territory. I soon began also to notice a change in the c acter of the country. Even before we reached the southern bound line of Minnesota I perceived that the banks of the river instead of b as heretofore low and flat began to rise into greater swells and rid This continued as we advanced until fairly in Minnesota, when I fo the level of the country far above the river and coming down to i steep abrupt rocky bluffs of all fantastic shapes and forms. This I thou at least was an agreeable variety. The land had spirit enough to ge a little, instead of lying stretched out in the Illinois fashion as if labo under a chronic fever and ague. These abrupt bluffs worked into stra resemblances by the winds and rains of centuries contrasted beautif with the low tree-covered islands that filled the channel; filled it so with their dark green multitude that at every turn one wondered h the Steamer would ever make her way out from what seemed an encir bay;—and still as she went on new islands, new bluffs and new l presented themselves. It reminded one forcibly of that exquisite desc tion of Sir Walter Scott,

> "Dark rocks and tufted knolls their face
> Could in the dark blue mirror trace;
> Lost for a while 'mid thickets veering,
> Yet broader when again appearing."

Well, I thought, here at least is beauty, no matter what other requis may be wanting. Here is scenery for the sake of viewing which the telligent and tasteful will yet desert the Rhine and the Hudson. H too is poetry for yonder is the "Maiden's Leap," the cold white r rising up blank and chill full five hundred feet above the colder w where the Indian girl of long ago buried at once her sufferings and love. And here too, in all this, is grander poetry—the monster rive the world starting out on his great career followed in his youth tenderness and beauty, and yet ere long casting both aside and go straight on, rude and bold unloved and solitary, natures great image friendless greatness.

I began to notice also that practical life was busy here as well as beau Every few miles on the river brought us to the hut of the wood-chopp the young village or the rising town. At every point there were pass gers and freight to disembark. And then such activity, such hurry, s energy. The people seemed to be perfectly wide awake. I was ast ished too at the immense amount of store goods, piles of boxes, sto agricultural tools, &c. carried out at every landing place. The boat g lighter as we advanced; and as we advanced my admiration of the coun increased.

At length I reached St. Paul, the type and representative of the whole gion. Ten thousand people accumulated in about six years. Property en in that time from $1 $\frac{25}{100}$ per acre to $200 per foot. And those n thousand people equal to one hundred thousand in any other part of e world! The streets in some places as crowded as Broadway with gons, drays, carts and carriages; all hurry, scurry, as if the millenium d been fixed by special appointment for the next day and they were xious to settle up their business forthwith.

Then when I rode out upon the high, clear, sunny, breezy prairies and eathed in that delightful, that exhilirating atmosphere, than which there nothing purer or sweeter in all God's created world; and when I looked ound me at that beautiful diversity of field, wood, and water, rounded ke and crystal stream, I said to myself this surely is earth's Paradise: ureka! I have found it!

What have we and what will we have here?

A state almost the geographical centre of the continent—"the highest int of table land between the Gulf of Mexico and Hudson's Bay," and nsequently the healthiest. The only state in the confederacy commucating at one and the same time with the Gulf of Mexico on the south, e Atlantic Ocean on the east and Hudson's Bay on the north;—it eds only what it will yet of necessity have, the rail-road to the Paeific ading from its centre to San Francisco, to make it the great centre ece of our Union, holding together its extreme ends by clamps that nnot be dissevered. It contains in itself the mightiest sources of wealth. copper mines centuries will be required to fully develope; its vast neries are already supplying most of the down river states; its fertile il will soon make it one of the greatest of grain-growing countries; its ake Superior ports, as near New-York as Chicago, will furnish a ready eans of export, while its pure healthful invigorating climate will beget race of active, clear-headed, enterprising men, such as few countries n boast of. Take New England, smooth down her mountains, carry f her rocks, give her a soil of Nile-like fertility, fill her with copper e, cover her with pine forests, drive the consumption out of her atmosiere, let her retain her education, her morality, and her intellect, set her to ork to develope her possessions and you will then be able to form some nception of what Minnesota will be fifty years hence.

These were my first impressions of Minnesota, and every day since as but confirmed them. For a time I was somewhat troubled about ic winters. These constituted the only objections I had ever heard ged against the Territory. In December last I started for Minnesota, lled there partly by business, and partly by a desire to see the climate all its phases, before making it my permanent home. As the result my observations I would state briefly—and in this I do but repeat a mmon sentiment—that I would much rather spend a winter in Minneta than in New York or Philadelphia True, the weather is cold,—ut it is of that settled, steady, clear character which we call here *bracing* weather." No damp winds, no sloppy thaw, no uncomfortable

rains, but day after day, the same unbroken field of snow, the sa clear, bright sunshine, the same untroubled air. Winter there holds disputed sway; it is not as here, a muddled mixture of all seasons which the breezy Spring, the clear Autumn, the sunny Summer and rigorous Winter mingle and mix, and come and go together. You understand the force of this distinction when I tell you that the first of snow in Minnesota remains on the ground during the whole win without a crust; so free is the air from that dampness which in ot countries produces it. Who among you has not noticed the penetrat character of dampness in cold:—its chilling searching qualities; or w on the other hand has not gone abroad on days of intense coldness, when the air was dry and pure, and felt elastic, buoyant and comfortat Such is a Minnesota winter. I suffered less from the cold while th than I have many times in Philadelphia when the thermometer sto much higher.

Winter too in Minnesota is the season for hilarity and social enj ment. The vast and enduring snow fields make sleighs a requisite; t people thrown upon each other for happiness become social and gregario Sleighs, cutters and jumpers, of all styles, from the fur-enrobed turn-c of the banker, down to the pine-wood sled of the farmer, hurry throu the streets in all directions. Parties are all the rage. Wealth, easi acquired, is squandered in hospitable displays. I remember very ma parties in St. Paul during last January and February, which for t beauty of the ladies, the splendor of the apparel, the array of jewelr and the lavish waste of money, would fall little short of anything can see in our eastern cities. Imagine plains seven years since wilderness:—now on the spot lordly mansions arise,—lighted parl glisten and music resounds,—while refinement and luxury crowd a cluster within. Civilization seems to have flung her treasures sudden and collectively upon the land.

Abroad over the whole Territory there are the same general featur of plenty and prosperity. The country is ascending the scale and is y far from that dead level to which all communities eventually attai One hundred and twenty thousand people crowded into Minneso during the year 1856,—forty thousand more than the sum total of i population acquired during six preceding years. This year it is almo certain, a still larger number will enter it, The East is fully aroused t its merits. It presents in its freedom from miasmatic diseases, in th easy and pleasant ways of reaching it, in its extraordinary rapidity growth, new features in western emigration. It is and will be *the* State the North West. Let us look back and ask ourselves in what do Ohi Indiana, Illinois, or even Wisconsin compare with this rich and favore land; and yet see the wealth and greatness to which they have attained crowded with millions, seamed with railroads, covered over with cities every foot of land valuable beyond the wildest dreams of its first owners and the States themselves,—lately begging Territorial alms at the gate of Congress,—now occupying distinguished and influential positions in th

nfederacy. Is there any man will build a wall across the current of ese things? Will not this great advance with accelerated motion roll er our young Territory?—Will not the same events be here repeated, l will not in a few years, Minnesota, the head of the great valley of e Mississippi, send forth from her crowded cities hordes of emigrants the farther west?

There are those perhaps listening to me, who knowing these things ll yet permit the golden opportunity to pass from them;—will let slip e government's gift of land at its paltry price;—will let slip harvests new rising towns, and who will live to see the day when in grey-red indigence they will lament to those around them their want of dgment or of energy. How many have I met who can tell me what ey would have been worth had they emigrated to Cincinnati, Chicago St. Louis ten, fifteen or twenty years ago. How many more who re offered property years since in Ohio, Indiana or Illinois, the one irth of which would now be a fortune to them. Such people have no ubt occurred within the experience of all of you. And they will again cur every day and every year until our government ceases to hold for e one acre of arable land between this and the Pacific.

There is one thing peculiar to the western country which eastern ople cannot understand until they visit it:—that is to say, the chances of ccess are not confined to isolated cases but are universal. When we in e East hear of some great fortune realised in St. Paul or elsewhere, we nk, "ah, this is extraordinary, but it may never occur again." On the ntrary, for every instance of that sort that meets the light there are ndreds that are not known in any public manner. The prosperity of e country is due to natural causes, the sudden populating of new and tile regions, and is universal. It finds its way into all ranks and ades, as well into the log-house of the farmer as into the palace of the eculator; it spreads over the whole country. An adventurous pre-mptor dives into the wilderness, twenty miles if you please, from any man habitation, in search of a water-power-claim or some other peculiar vantage. He locates and the fear comes over him that even the nefits he has secured will be of little use to him. He looks at the broken wilderness around him and can scarcely believe but that nturies will be needed before that vast range will be inhabited. *A year sses* and the whole country around him is dotted with claims, and he surrounded by neighbors—another year and he has sold out for thou-nds of dollars that which cost him hundreds. His purchaser continues again sells out, doubling and trebling his investment. The growth of e country buoys up everything. Even the most timorous become ad-nturous, and men who here would not risk a dollar in anything like eculation, there launch out into the wildest schemes and grow rich. As ng as that tremendous flood of population pours into the country failure almost impossible. The mind of man can run into no extravagance e growth of the country will not justify. It is a saying among Minne-otians, that the most sanguine and venturous make the most. I have

heard of many who had sold property at what they considered enormn prices, and thought their purchaser insane, standing in a few months wi mouths and eyes open, watching that same property going up and u through successive hands, price on price, doubling, trebling and qua rupling, a looming fortune striding away from them.

What better illustration can be asked of the internal forces of pro perity in Minnesota than a plain history of the growth of Nininger Cit In September last, six months ago, the survey of the town was co pleted and parties commenced to build. Had it been located in Ne York or Pennsylvania, it would have contained by this time about tw houses, half finished. As it is, the town now holds over seventy house and some of these of very excellent character;—three mills, one costi about thirty thousand dollars ;—two or three stores; one large hotel, l this time nearly finished, and several smaller ones used principally boarding houses; a post office, &c: And this is but the merest cor mencement. After September there intervened only two months befo the winter set in, so that the greatest part of the growth of the town h been during mid-winter. In addition to the above enumerated list buildings I have just heard that during three weeks, while the snow w two feet deep, *thirty* new foundations were laid! May, will find one hundr houses in the town! Imagine those who passed in September, 1856, few naked farms, in May, 1857, steaming up to the landing of a flouris ing town of one hundred houses. Where else in the world do t winters beget such things. The heathen mythology related of one w planted dragons teeth and they grew up men, but it was reserved for t mythology of America with the same miraculous facility, to raise n men but towns and cities.

And then look too at the future of Nininger. If she has done all thi during the winter what will she not accomplish when the breath Spring which puts life into all nature, stirs up her vitality. What pr portion shall she receive of those boat-loads which during next year wil be ascending the Mississippi in search of homes? What numbers wil not the energy of those connected with her crowd into her from all part of the land? Western towns have heretofore grown by chance. Nini ger will be the first to prove what combination and concentrated effo can do to assist nature. I should not desire to draw ridicule upon my self by assuming the mantle of prophesy in her behalf. What I woul promise for her would too far surpass the anticipations of even her mos sanguine friends. I will point you only to her past history and to th liberal nature of her organization, by which the proprietors sold lots t improvers at the original cost, and I will point you also to the manner i which her interests have since been, and now are being advanced an urged, and I will then turn you to the present results. These speak trumpet-tongued.

What else is to come. *The first rail-road built in Minnesota shall run from Nininger City*! It is the mid-way river town at which, as we shall yet show, can be concentrated more of the new rail-roads than any othe

n in the Territory. This done and who shall rate the future too
ly.

mention these things to show by an instance with which I am very
iliar, the course of events in this new Territory. The same obser-
ons hold good, more or less, in regard to any well-located, properly
aged town. I do not stand here to puff into notoriety any particular
rprise. Once convinced of the general advantages of the Territory
once resolved to make it your home, the peculiar merits of Nininger
be brought to your notice by other advocates and through other
ns.

conclusion I have a few words to say in reference to emigration,
panies. All associative bodies of a complex character are more or
dangerous. I am no believer in those organizations which attempt
nake western emigration a joint-stock operation. They are made up
nen of all kinds, and of characters unknown to each other. Good and
are tied together and must sink or swim together. Moreover, where
y are united in equality, important matters are often neglected.
t which is everybody's business is nobody's business. Every tub
ld stand on its own bottom. It is as difficult to make communism
k advantageously in the western prairies as it is in the eastern cities.
ou should act for yourselves. Form entangling alliances with no
. It is the natural tendency of the human mind when anticipating
ger to become gregarious, but you will generally find it of little use or
antage. Make use of every means in your power to obtain correct
rmation in reference to the West. Make up your mind slowly and
ly, and once made up go straight on to the accomplishment of your
rmination. Trust to yourself and to yourself alone. It is true there
ne form of combination which is commendable. That is to say
re men purposing emigration to the same point join together to
el together. By travelling together they are enabled to mutually
st each other—the ignorant are benefitted by the knowledge of the
er informed—the weak are assisted by the strong—the timorous find
ouragement in the society of those having a common object, and even
ase of sickness there will be found those to offer comfort and relief.
e however at the place of destination, every man should take care of
self. This therefore is combination in the pursuit of an object and
vidnality in its possession. And this is the course I understand pro-
d to be adopted by this meeting. The arrangements and the details
be proposed by others.

With therefore my apology for having occupied your time so long I
nk you for your patient attention.

HO! FOR THE WEST!

The attention of persons of limited as well as extensive capital, desirou emigrating Westward is requested to the new

TOWN OF NININGER, MINNESOTA

NININGER is beautifully situated on the west bank of the Mississi twenty-five miles below St. Paul, and, although only six months old, th are already seventy buildings erected, and five hundred inhabitants Improvements of all kinds will continue to be vigorously prosecuted lots have been sold, on liberal terms, conditionally that several hund thousand dollars' worth of improvements be erected within eight months.

The landing is one of the finest on the river, and a steam ferry b is to be on the station, on the opening of navigation. Roads will opened to all points from which the business of the town is to be deriv There is a vast extent of easily cultivated choice farming land all arou much of it already thickly settled. There is plenty of timber and wa and a ready market for farm produce. The dreaded ague is a stran in this region, and the climate is delightfully invigorating. On the to site, and in its immediate vicinity, there is excellent building stone, clay for making bricks, and the lime made here being very superior already in demand at other towns on the river. Large hotels, churc and schools, an athenæum, unsurpassed saw-mills of great capacity, merous substantial stores and dwelling houses are either already bu or to be erected this Spring, and, as the principal depot of the Min sota Emigrant Aid Society is to be at this point, where the journal connection with it will be published, the probability is that parties w arrange to commence business here will succeed well. A charter h been obtained for a Railroad from Nininger to St. Peter, and Westwa from that point. Arrangements for the Scotch branch of the Europe Emigration to Nininger are nearly completed.

The liberality of the original organization, the immense number of interests involved, the natural advantages of the place, and above all the energy and industry with which the interests of the town are urged all make this spot one suitable for the active and enterprising citizen almost any trade or occupation. No town in the North-West has grown during the first six months of its existence more rapidly than Nininger, and certainly none promise better for the future.

For further information apply by letter or otherwise, to Louis Loichot, Postmaster, Nininger, M. T.; Andrew Levering, St. Paul, M. T.; J. Jones, Harrisburgh Pa.; G. O. Robertson, 135 Water Street, New-York, or Handysides & Henderson, Glasgow, Scotland.

N. B.—Mr. Alex'r W. McDonald (Scientific American Office, New-York,) leaves for Nininger about the 13th of April, along with others from New-York and vicinity; and a company of upwards of one hundred persons leave Philadelphia for Nininger about 1st of May, and another in June. Additions to their number respectfully invited.

10th March, 1857.